

APPROVED MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 27, 2006 MEETING OF THE FAIRFAX COUNTY SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION

Location: Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway,
Fairfax, Virginia, Conference Rooms 9

Attending: **SBC Members**

John Elzroth, Providence District
Katy Fike, Mount Vernon District
Beatrice Malone, Hunter Mill District
Scott Monett, Dranesville District
Elizabeth Novak, Mason District
Marvin Powell, Sully District
Mark Roeber, Springfield District
Robert Secundy, Acting Chair

Staff (Department of Purchasing and Supply Management)

Cathy A. Muse, Director
Marvis Marshall, Vendor Relations Division
Ingrid Abernathy, Administrative Assistant

Absent: Marjorie Castro, At-Large
Thomas Kim, At-Large
Samuel Phipps, Lee District
Harold Pyon, Braddock District

Mark Roeber called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm

Minutes from the January 30, 2006 meeting were approved as submitted.

Scott Monett presented motion, Libby Novak seconded. The motion carried

Special Guest Dr. Thomas Wilkins – Dr. Wilkins addressed the Commission by giving a summary of his affiliation with Fairfax County and working history within the small business community. He challenged the Commission to tackle controversial issues that impacts small business, and suggested ways to gain more visibility and influence within the legislation. He stated the SBC could proactively do this in a number ways, and he was available to advise or consult in the process if needed. He emphasized small business has been one of the key factors of economic success in this Country, and complimented the Commission in doing their part to preserve it.

Staff Report

Libby Novak distributed to the Commission an update of activities that she has been covering within the community. Topics reviewed and discussed were the Community Business Partnership (CPB) Meeting, and the Korean Festival & New Year Celebration.

Mark Roeber reported on Virginia legislation and indicated that little was being done to address small business concerns. After meeting with different legislators he discovered there were several perceptions regarding small business and its functions. He added that he would campaign in getting legislators to re-think what defines small business at how they contribute to today's economic society.

Staff Reports

Fairfax County 2006 Legislative Reviews – Cathy Muse distributed the most recent legislative information and answered questions/concerns.

Chamber of Commerce Reports

Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce (Katy Fike)

Katy distributed useful information on the upcoming seminars from March – June 2006. She added the seminars attract a diverse group of businesses, but also those who find it difficult to do business with government entities. She encouraged the Commission to help publicize the seminar, and help change some of the negative perceptions these businesses have when dealing with the government.

Drainesville Commerce - Scott Monett reported that a business convention will be hosted in Tyson's Corner, but a date has not yet been determined. Marvis Marshall asked to be contacted ASAP, since there are other conferences scheduled that shouldn't conflict if possible.

Non-for-Profit – Scott also made mention of a focus committee that addresses the needs of supporting people/organizations who are in need of assistance the most.

Herndon Chamber of Commerce (Marvin Powell) – He noted the Sales Training Courses scheduled every Wednesday at the Chamber has been successful. He too, encouraged everyone to visit their website for the next topic discussion and date/time.

New Business

Bob Secondy requested a list of the committee members and the various boards they serve on. Marvice will distribute the information at the next scheduled commission meeting

Mark Roeber stated he had recently met with the Secretary of Health and identified there was a great need to address the health issues relating to the small business community. He stated that he would like the Commission to consider spearheading this effort in being a voice and affecting change, as the ongoing health issue affects us all. He added that more discussion can be given to this topic in upcoming meetings.

Mark also reported that he recently spoke with the VA SB Financing Authority and would like to invite them to a SBC meeting, as well as the Virginia Department of Business Association. Both organizations have vital and useful information to share; and the Commission agreed to both agencies attending future meetings.

Old Business

Marvis Marshall reminded the Commission that their Annual Report was due during the month of March .

Adjournment

There being no further business, Scott Monett moved to adjourn. Marvis Powell seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 9:20pm.